

Smith, Jacob Spellman, Joseph Walker II, Moses Webb, Jr., and Ji Wright.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the Bengals on their championship and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

**FREEDOM FOR VICTOR ROLANDO
ARROYO CARMONA**

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is an independent journalist in a country oppressed by a regime that mandates official propaganda and prohibits news of the truth. He believes in writing and speaking the truth about the monstrous regime and that Cuba should and will be free from the totalitarian nightmare that is the Castro dictatorship. Because he believes in freedom for the Cuban people and because he actively and peacefully advocates for change, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been repeatedly harassed and incarcerated by the tyrant's machinery.

According to Human Rights Watch, Mr. Arroyo Carmona has been detained numerous times for his pro-democracy activism. In January 1995, he was beaten and jailed for 9 days after organizing a ceremony commemorating the birth of Jose Marti. In January 2000, he was charged with "hoarding" and "sentenced" to 18 months in the hellish totalitarian gulag for organizing a toy drive and distributing toys to needy Cuban children. He served 6 months of his sentence before being released only to be severely beaten on three separate occasions in October of that same year.

Subsequently, on March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy advocates, Mr. Arroyo Carmona was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" on trumped-up charges that he "undermined national independence and territorial integrity" to 26 years in the condemnable totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona has bravely participated in hunger strikes to protest the abhorrent conditions in the gulag and the depraved treatment of fellow political prisoners. Tragically, his daily struggle and suffering in an infernal roach infested gulag with hardly any contact with the outside world is not enough for the Cuban dictatorship, a regime of gangsters, by gangsters, and for gangsters, run by a gangster in chief. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mr. Arroyo is subjected to constant humiliation, physical torture and threats that he will never leave prison alive.

Mr. Arroyo Carmona is just one of the many heroes of the peaceful pro-democracy opposition on that oppressed island. Despite incessant harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom and democracy are inalienable rights of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, it remains categorically offensive that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in the dungeons of monsters. Here, under the dome that

represents representative democracy, we must demand the liberation of all who suffer in the darkness of totalitarianism. My colleagues we must demand the immediate release of Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

**TRIBUTE TO THE UNION MEMORIAL
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan. On Sunday, January 28, the Union Memorial A.M.E. will be celebrating her 139th Anniversary.

Since the church's original dedication in 1868, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Twin Cities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph has stood as a symbol of faith, hope, and compassion for the citizens of Berrien County and the surrounding area. Its 139 years of commitment have had a tremendous impact on its congregation as well as the greater community.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has had a proud history since starting in the home of Steven Busby in 1868. This small Christian assembly back then was known as the "House of Praise." The area was home to two A.M.E. churches in the 1890s, and in 1901 the church in Benton Harbor was destroyed by a fire. The church was rebuilt and in 1929 the Benton Harbor and St. Joseph churches united under the name Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1969 the church moved to its current location at Empire and Crystal A venues.

In its 139 year history, the church has never wavered from the ministry of saving lost souls, preaching the gospel, feeding the hungry, helping the homeless, and reaching out and renewing the spirit of folks in need. I want to commend the members of Union Memorial African Methodist Episcopal on their anniversary and on their commitment in the future to serving the greater community.

**TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
MICHAEL ANDEREGG**

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents who has dedicated more than thirty years of his life to serving our justice system, Marquette County and the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Honorable Michael Anderegg began his service to the Upper Peninsula in 1972 as a Staff Attorney for Upper Peninsula Legal Services. After a two-year stint with Upper Peninsula Legal Services, Judge Anderegg went on to become Assistant Prosecutor and Chief Assistant Prosecutor of Marquette County. In seeking his first elected office, Michael Anderegg was chosen as Marquette County Probate Judge in 1977.

Twenty years later, Michigan eliminated the Probate Court and Judge Anderegg became the Presiding Judge of the Family Division of the Marquette County Circuit Court. Judge Anderegg has become a national leader in developing new approaches to the closely linked problems of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency and repeat offenders.

In Marquette, Judge Anderegg has been one of the driving forces behind Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE. WEAVE stands for Willingness to Explore Approaches that Validate and Embrace youth. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE is a unique program that is working in Marquette to improve the quality of alcohol and drug treatment services available to youth who are in the justice system. Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's cross-disciplinary approach pulls together varied partners from recovery and treatment centers, the Marquette Area Public Schools, law enforcement, the juvenile justice system and other cornerstones of the Marquette community to assist youthful offenders to become a contributing adult in our society. Together, through Project WEAVE, these institutions identify, assist, encourage and reclaim children struggling at home, in schools and in our communities.

Reclaiming Futures Project WEAVE's successes have become a model for other juvenile delinquency systems around the country. As Judge Anderegg and the Project WEAVE staff joke: "What happens in Alaska stays in Alaska and what happens in San Antonio stays in San Antonio, but what happens in Marquette is disseminated across the nation!"

The Michigan legal community, indeed legal professionals across the country, have benefited immensely from Judge Anderegg's sharp intellect, vast knowledge and wealth of experience. A graduate of Harvard College and the University of Michigan Law School, Judge Anderegg has served on Michigan Supreme Court Committees on: Juvenile Court Rules; Family Division Rules; and the Probate Court Academic Advisory Benchbook. He has lectured extensively, addressing the Michigan Supreme Court's Michigan Judicial Institute; the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Section; and the Colorado Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention Council, to name only a few of the prominent organizations that have benefited from his insights. In 2001, he received the President's Award for meritorious service as a trustee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Judge Anderegg spends a great deal of personal time traveling across the country in order to share his insights. The Project WEAVE staff estimate that he has easily traveled 150,000 miles in his quest to learn more, share more and improve America's juvenile justice system.

In many pursuits and professions it is often easy to accept the status quo and to resist new thinking. It is rare to find individuals who constantly challenge pre-conceived notions and basic assumptions in order to perfect more effective solutions to long standing problems. An outspoken advocate for bold, new approaches to solving juvenile delinquency, Judge Michael Anderegg is one of those rare individuals who embraces change.

Madam Speaker, Judge Anderegg has accomplished much in his thirty years of service. His parents, Robert and Anita were proud that he was elected a judge at the relatively young age of thirty. During his early years on the